

Reaccion

Aruba deeply hurt and profoundly offended

By: Psychologist Tony Green

From the moment of the tragic disappearance of Natalee Holloway, Aruba and all Arubans were deeply moved and in disbelief that such a tragedy could occur on this peaceful island. The island took on an attitude of prayer with the resounding request that Natalee be found alive and well.

The family and friends of Natalee received all kinds of support from every corner of this island nation. Hundreds turned out in a massive search across the island volunteering their time and energy. Churches opened their doors to the family for corporate prayer. The clergy on the island rallied around the family with their support. The support from the government and law enforcement agents was and still is unprecedented for a foreign visitor.

It is more than apparent that every effort has been and is still being made by all our law enforcement officials to bring a positive closure to this tragedy. Our investigative team allowed the intervention of the American FBI as well as the Texas Search team in an effort to ensure that indeed and in fact all the stops are pulled out and that Natalee is found.

Any objective bystander will agree that Aruba has done and is doing her very utmost to resolve this tragedy. However, the statements made by Mrs. Beth Holloway Tweety yesterday after the courts' release of the Kalpoe brothers were nothing less than downright outrageous and profoundly offensive to the Aruban people in the light of all that Aruba has already done to resolve this tragedy. Aruba is deeply hurt to have heard such derogatory statements made by someone whom we believe should know better.

It is no secret that Aruban law is thorough, just and fair without any semblance of injustice, prejudice, and stands tall above many other systems of law. Contrary to the US system of law we also do not allow for plea bargaining, one is either guilty or innocent and if guilty, a just penalty is inevitable.

Mrs. Holloway and any other non Aruban such as the international press must respect Aruban law, must show due respect for the Aruban people. We also expected Mrs. Holloway to have shown much more maturity and dignity than what was displayed in her remarks yesterday. To refer to the young suspects as criminals was a blow way below the belt and her admission that she considers our justice system as corrupt without actually saying so. She must know by now that just like in the US, Aruban law demands that one is innocent until proven guilty, and if there are no hard facts pointing to guilt the courts have no alternative than to set the suspects free.

We sincerely hope that this tragedy is resolved, however, if we never find the truth, as is the case with thousands of criminal cases in the USA (so much so that there is enough material to produce a weekly television series on the countless number of "Unsolved Crimes"), Mrs. Holloway would be totally wrong to conclude that this is because of any deficiency in our justice system.

Aruba did not bring Natalee here; she came on her own volition. Aruba did not invite her, nor coerce her into the backseat of an automobile driven by underage teens she did not know, she did so on her own volition. Aruba did not force the chaperone to look the other way when Natalee was consuming alcohol, nor when she gleefully hopped into the backseat of that automobile on the night of her disappearance, the chaperone did this on his/her own volition. We deeply regret whatever happened, but you cannot blame Aruba for it.

Aruba certainly deserves more than Mrs. Holloway's despicable statements and her rude, offensive, and ungrateful demeanor. Our justice system will not succumb to threats, nor can be intimidated by anyone. The fact that there is no trace of Natalee thus far almost leads me to think that this may be one of those so called perfect crimes. No Aruban, certainly no teenage Aruban is capable of a perfect crime! Could this imply something for your FBI to probe?! Could this have been orchestrated from outside of Aruba and Aruba used as the scapegoat?! Happily, we know that the rest of the American public is not like the Holloways, reason why Aruba's arms and heart remains wide open for Americans to visit us and live safely here with us.